

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-9 and 51-54 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 10-50 have been withdrawn. The Applicants confirm that the inventorship for the remaining claims has not changed.

The Applicants reserve the right to file the cancelled claims in a divisional application.

### **Information Disclosure Statement**

Submitted herewith is a Fourth Information Disclosure Statement. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review the cited reference and make it of record.

### **Teleconference With Examiner On Unconsidered Preliminary Amendment**

The Applicants filed a Preliminary Amendment dated January 27, 2003, which added claims 51-54. It was not, however, considered by the Examiner when evaluating the claims for making the current restriction requirement.

The Applicants' representative contacted the Examiner on April 26, 2004, to inquire about this issue. As suggested by the Examiner, the Applicants provide a brief explanation as to why they believe claims 51-54 should be grouped with the elected claims of Group I. The Applicants' representative appreciates the Examiner's willingness to discuss the issue over the phone and the suggestion of the Examiner.

### **Restriction/Election Requirement**

In response to the restriction/election requirement, the Applicants elect Group I, which includes claims 1-7 and 51-54. Claims 51-54 were added by the aforementioned Preliminary Amendment and were not considered by the Examiner before making the restriction requirement. Independent claims 1 and 51 are very similar in that both are apparatus claims having (i) an

image display device with a surface for producing images and (ii) a plurality of optical fibers with first ends optically coupled to the surface of the image display device and second ends for displaying the image to the player. Claim 1 calls for the second ends to have a radius of curvature, while claim 51 does not. The Applicants believe that claims 1 and 51 are so closely related that the burden on the Examiner of combining them is minimal. Conversely, the burden on the Applicants to pay for and maintain two patents on subject matter that is so closely related is significant. As such, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to add claims 51-54 to Group I and proceed with examination of claims 1-7 and 51-54.

The Applicants cancel claims 10-50, which correspond to Groups III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII. The Applicants make this election of Group I, however, with traverse with respect to Group II which only includes claims 8 and 9. Claim 1 is an apparatus claims that calls for the second ends of the optical fibers to display images to the player and to have a radius of curvature. Claim 8 is a method claim that is very similar to claim 1 in that it also calls for these features. The Applicants respectfully suggest that claims 8 and 9 of Group II are similar to the claims of Group I and would not require any more searching effort on the part of the Examiner.

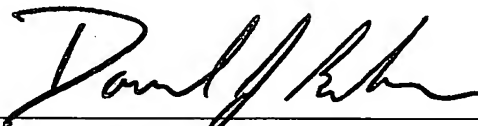
Again, the claims of Groups I and II are so closely related that the burden on the Examiner of combining these two groups is minimal. Yet, the burden on the Applicants to pay for and maintain two patents on subject matter that is so closely related is significant. Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement with respect to Group II due to its relatedness to Group I.

## Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,



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